

## Message Text

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15

ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:GQLUMSDEN,JR:GLG

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R 212321Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

SECDEF

CNO

CINCUSNAVEUR

USCINCEUR

COMIDEASTFOR

S E C R E T STATE 119268

EXDIS MIL ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

AE.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, BA, IR, US

SUBJECT: STATUS OF MIDEASTFOR

REF: (A) TEHRAN 4677 (NOTAL); (B) STATE 115921

(C) MANAMA 574

1. YOU WILL BE RECEIVING REPEATS OF SEVERAL CABLES (MANAMA 510 AND 560 AND STATE 115879) WHICH, ALONG WITH REFTEL(B (C) AND FOLLOWING THUMBNAIL SUMMARY, SHOULD BRING YOU UP TO SPEED ON MIDEASTFOR.

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2. BASICALLY, ANY PRIVATE RPT PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS WE MAY HAVE WITH IRANIANS ON MIDEASTFOR DURING NEXT WEEK OR SO SHOULD PROCEED FROM POSITION DEPASSTSECY SOBER TOOK WITH KHALATBARY MAY 15 (REFTEL B). YOU MAY INFORM GOI THAT

MUTUALLY AGREEABLE FORMULA FOR MIDEASTFOR RETENTION WAS REACHED BETWEEN USG AND GOB IN LATE MARCH. STRESS THAT, SINCE THERE ARE NO RPT NO FURTHER BILATERAL ISSUES OUTSTANDING, USG SIMPLY AWAITS GO-AHEAD FROM GOB TO PROCEED AND FORMALLY COMPLETE NEGOTIATIONS WITH EXCHANGE OF PREVIOUSLY-AGREED DOCUMENTS. HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD ALSO NOTE OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT TIMING OF THIS EXCHANGE WILL DEPEND UPON BAHRAINI DOMESTIC AND PARLIAMENTARY CONSIDERATIONS.

3. PLEASE EXPRESS TO IRANIAN OFFICIALS OUR APPRECIATION FOR GOI'S DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FOR MIDEASTFOR WHICH WAS MADE TO BAHRAINIS LAST YEAR. ADD THAT, BECAUSE OF CONTINUING GOB SENSITIVITY CONCERNING REACTIONS OF NEIGHBORING STATES ON THIS ISSUE, WE HOPE SHAH'S RECENT COMMENTS (TEHRAN 4508) PRESAGE NO RPT NO ALTERATIONS OF IRAN'S SUPPORT FOR TOKEN US NAVAL PRESENCE AT BAHRAIN. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS SUPPORT IS COMPATIBLE WITH OVERALL GOI STRATEGIC NAVAL PLANNING, PREMISES AND OBJECTIVES OF WHICH THE USG APPRECIATES.

4. SHOULD GOI OFFICIALS WISH DETAILS ON JUST WHAT WE HAVE NEGOTIATED WITH BAHRAINIS OVER RECENT MONTHS, YOU MAY IN CONFIDENCE DRAW ON FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) BASIC AGREEMENT: 1971 MIDEASTFOR FACILITIES AGREEMENT REMAINS IN FORCE.

(B) CRIMINAL JURISDICTION: IT HAS BEEN AGREED THAT ARTICLE 11 OF BASIC FACILITIES AGREEMENT WILL BE ADMINISTERED IN MANNER PERMITTING GOB COURTS TO HANDLE POLITICALLY IMPORTANT CASES.

(C) TERMINATION: UNILATERALLY, WE HAVE INDICATED OUR INTENTION, IN EVENT OF EXERCISE BY EITHER PARTY OF ITS RIGHTS UNDER ARTICLE 14 OF THE AGREEMENT, TO WITHDRAW  
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MIDEASTFOR WITHIN SIX MONTHS - ALTHOUGH LETTER OF AGREEMENT STILL ALLOWS ONE YEAR FOR THIS.

(D) RENT: YEARLY RENTAL FIGURE IS NOW SET AT DOLLARS 4 MILLION.

(E) FORCE ROLE: IN ADDITION TO RESTATING OUR 1971 ASSURANCES THAT THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE IN MIDEASTFOR'S ROLE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTIFICATION TO GOB, WE HAVE NOW ADDED ASSURANCE THAT QUOTE FACILITIES EXTENDED BY BAHRAIN GOVERNMENT TO UNITED STATES MIDDLE EAST FORCE WILL NOT BE UTILIZED IN ANY MANNER TO ASSIST OR SUPPORT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY ANY MILITARY ACTION OR OPERATION AGAINST NEIGHBORING STATES IN GULF AREA. UNQUOTE.

(F) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: ALTHOUGH NOT INTEGRAL PART OF THE MIDEASTFOR NEGOTIATIONS, WE HAVE AGREED TO PROVIDE BAHRAIN SOME CIVIL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS. CONSUMMATION OF THIS PROGRAM HINGES UPON SATISFACTORY FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR MIDEASTFOR.

5. WHILE WE ENCOURAGE PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS WITH APPROPRIATE GOI OFFICIALS, WE FEEL THAT IN VIEW OF UPCOMING VISIT OF GOB PM SHAIKH KHALIFA TO TEHRAN MAY 24, YOU SHOULD AVOID PUBLIC COMMENT ON MIDEASTFOR ISSUE. INGERSOLL

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KUWAIT  
LONDON  
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